



January 2024

www.egara.club

President Emeritus - Tom Scorsone, KC2FCP President - Bryan Jackson, W2RBJ Vice-President - Walt Snyder, N2WJR
Secretary - Steve VanSickle, WB2HPR Treasurer, Don Mayotte, KB2CDX
Board Members: Tom Scorsone, KC2FCP Russ Greenman, WB2LXC Steve VanSickle, WB2HPR

Expenses Up: Club Dues See Modest Increased

After being able to hold the line on club dues for several years, EGARA reluctantly increased them by \$10 annually after incurring a substantial hike in expenses. The biggest jump in was due to the Masonic Lodge requesting that the club begin paying \$1,200 a year for use of its building for meetings and storage of its equipment.



Previously, the club was given use of the building in return for monthly maintenance of the facility and its grounds, which it will be required to continue as well.

“Unfortunately, the Mason’s have faced rising costs of owning and operating the building, and have asked all of those using the facility to increase their financial support to help cover the shortfall,” said EGARA President Bryan Jackson, W2RBJ. “Other options may become available at some point, but we saw no other alternative that was immediately available to the club.”

Under the new dues structure, single memberships will be \$25 a year, and family memberships will be \$35 annually. The new rates have been updated on the club’s website (www.EGARA.club), where on-line payments can be easily and securely made through PayPal. Multi-year discounts will also continue to be available and can be accessed on the website as well.

Although the dues increase will help, the club also expects it will have to make modest increases in prices at its annual Hamfest to cover its expenses.

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Need a Tax Deduction? Donate to EGARA!

Reducing the money you owe Uncle Sam may be possible by making a tax-deductible contribution to EGARA, which is recognized by the IRS as a 501c3 non-profit educational charity.

And, to make it even easier, the club’s website now features a “Donate” link on its homepage (<https://www.egara.club/donate>). Donations are processed safely and securely using the club’s PayPal account.



Donations to EGARA should qualify for a full deduction on your tax return for the year in which the donation was made (for example, December 31, 2023 to qualify for a deduction in 2023). Consult your tax advisor should you have any questions.

Next Membership Meeting - December 10, 2024

A Christmas Picture Book

Members of the EGARA family celebrated the holiday season with the club's annual Christmas party held on December 13th at Moscatiello's Restaurant in Troy. In addition to dining together, Santa kicked off the holiday with a variety of gifts, including HT radios, gift certificates and more. Here's a look at the evening of fun and friendship...



Longtime ENY Emergency Chief Steps Down

Eastern New York's Amateur Radio Emergency Coordinator, Dave Galletly, KM2O, has announced his retirement from that post after more than a decade of service.

Word of the change was made in mid-December and will take effect with the start of the New Year.

Dave's announcement of his departure came in the following email:



"To all leaders and members of Eastern New York Section ARES:

I have decided, after more than a dozen years in this position, that it is time for me to make some changes. I have tendered my resignation as Eastern New York Section Emergency Coordinator to our Section Manager John Fritze K2QY effective as of January 1, 2024. I have given John my recommendations on succession, but will leave it to him to make any further announcements.

I have enjoyed working with and visiting groups in all 15 counties over these past years. I was first appointed as SEC in 2011 by then Section Manager Pete Cecere N2YJZ (SK) to fill the extended vacancy in the position left by the passing of Frank Stone KB2YUR a couple of years earlier. My appointment followed in the wake of Hurricane Irene and its devastation in the Hudson Valley, particularly in Greene County. The needed reinvigoration of ARES in the Section was underscored by that event and the subsequent arrival of Hurricane (dubbed Superstorm) Sandy and its effects on Westchester County just a year later.

During my tenure we responded to an urgent call for reinforcements for shelters in Westchester following Sandy. We also instituted the monthly ENY ARES/RACES nets that continue. We went through the rise and fall of ARRL's ARES Connect system, of which Eastern New York was a leading successful user. The loss of that system continues to be missed. A section emergency plan was instituted and revamped over the years. We embraced the technologies of Hamshack Hotline, Winlink and groups.io, which continue as a means of alerting and communicating. New ARES training routines have been implemented and a Task Book made available for members to keep track of their training activities.

There is still much to be done, but as I said, it is time to pass this on to new leadership. For the future, I will remain active and available to assist in whatever capacity in which I may be of use.

My sincere thanks go to each and every one of you for the support you have provided me during my tenure.

Best wishes for a happy holiday season and a good new year!

73,

Dave KM2O

Section Emergency Coordinator, ARRL Eastern New York Section

On the Beam News & Notes

EGARA Hamfest 2024 Gets ARRL Approval



EGARA's 2024 hamfest -- the club's 20th -- has been officially sanctioned by ARRL Hudson Division Director Nomar Vizcarrondo, NP4H. This year's Hamfest is set for June 2, 2024 and will return to the East Greenbush Fire House Pavilion on Phillips Road in Rensselaer.

As part of the approval, EGARAs event will be listed on ARRL's Hamfest and Convention page on its website at: <http://www.arrl.org/hamfests-and-conventions-calendar>.

ARRL will also provide the club with gift certificates that will be used as raffle prizes. In addition, the club will be contacting its past Hamfest sponsors to once again arrange for their generous donation of raffle items.

As noted in the story on page one, the club expects to modestly increase prices at this year's Hamfest to help defer its rising expenses. These are expected to center on the admission price and food items.

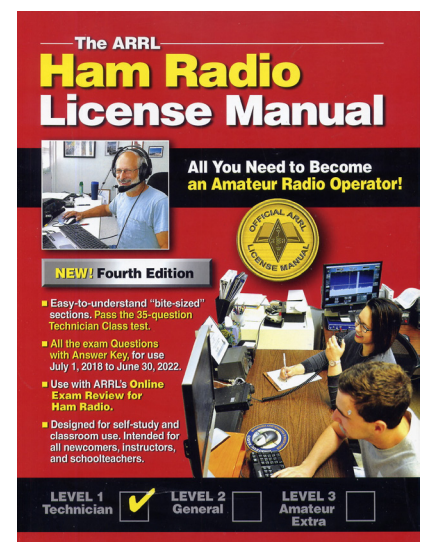
Tech Class Set for February with Local Off-Road Club

EGARA has firmed up its plans to conduct a Technician license class for the Capital District Jeep/Wrangler Off-Road Club (CDJW). Members of the group approached EGARAs in November to help them graduate to Ham radio after using Citizen's Band to communicate during their off-road events.

The class will be held Saturday, February 10th from 9 am to 3 pm. A refresher will be held the following day -- Sunday, February 11th -- from 10 am to 1 pm, followed by an FCC test session. If there is increment weather that weekend, the snow dates will be the following weekend, February 17 & 18, using the same times.

EGARA members who wish to participate as instructors are welcome and invited to apply by e-mailing President Bryan Jackson at W2RBJ@outlook.com. Participation will require attending an instructor training session, as well as attending both days of the class. Preferably, those wishing to help instruct will also be an approved ARRL Volunteer Examiner (VE). VEs holding a General class license can conduct Technician exams, while VEs with an Extra class license can conduct exams for all license classes -- Technician, General and Extra. Technician class license holders are not eligible to become VEs.

The class will be conducted at CDJW's facilities located at Curtis Lumber in Ballston Spa. The EGARAs instructor team will likely carpool to the location. Lunch will be provided during the Saturday class session.



EGARA December Meeting Minutes

- The December meeting of EGARA was the club's traditional Christmas Party and was held on December 13th at Moscatiello's Restaurant in Troy;
- The regular meeting agenda was suspended, but a few updates were given to those in attendance;
- Members were advised of an increase in club dues being made necessary due to additional costs being incurred by the club. The dues increase is \$10 for both individual and family memberships. Online payments can be made and the dues rates have been updated on the site;
- No reports were given by club officers or board members;
- A number of gifts were raffled off to those at the dinner. These included two high-power HT dual band radios, two AM/FM/SW pocket radios, and gift certificates to Hannaford markets and Stewart's;
- Christmas greetings were exchanged among club members and their guests at the dinner;
- Minutes recorded by Secretary Steve VanSickle, WB2HPR.



EGARA closed out 2023 with the addition of two new members, Christian Sweningsen, KD2LIN, and Thomas Trimarchi, KC1SKG.

Christian holds a Tech license and lives in Stuyvesant, while Thomas is an Amateur Extra with his QTH located in Williamstown, Massachusetts.

Please welcome them both to our club!

The History of Ham Radio: Two Contests

Chris Codella, W2PA, author, John Pelham, W1JA, editor, Phil Johnson, W2SQ, editor

(Editor's note: By special arrangement with the authors, Sidebands is pleased to present this multi-part series on the history of ham radio. Subsequent chapters will be published in future monthly editions of the newsletter)

In the fall of 1929, mounting interest in another message handling contest prompted a repeat of what ARRL Communications Manager F. E. Handy dubbed an "International DX Contest" like the one held in February 1928 that had been so popular. Since there had been both worldwide and US- and Canada-only events, there were many proponents for each kind. So, Handy and the others in the Communications Department decided that both would be held this time.

Today, test is considered shorthand for an on-air contest. But the term actually arose from more than simply shortening a word. These first contests had their roots in the various organized tests that had been run for more than a decade. So although they were the direct antecedents of modern contests, with rules, scoring and prizes, the early ones were meant to help develop a community understanding of propagation on the shortwave bands and push equipment design to improved levels of performance. Those amateurs at the leading edge of the art were motivated to more efficiently and effectively use the recently trimmed-back amateur bands, a motivation that continues in full force today. The friendly competition of the tests was an additional, more broadly appealing incentive. It was the same combined incentive that had driven Leon Deloy to research and build his station to be the first in Europe to contact North America. A single QSO was enough to win first place in 1923.

If previous test activity was any indication of the potential of new ones—each of the last two successive events had seen increased participation—they should certainly serve to stress the capacity of the new band limits. They would also challenge amateurs seeking to test out their 1929-type stations. Modern equipment combined with good operating practice would be the essence of a winning effort. Intelligent use of all the bands would also be essential, but no one quite knew how to do that yet. The contests would help amateurs develop a better understanding of the new bands' individual personalities, especially a wider appreciation of the underused 14,000-kHz band.

Handy predicted,

"New contacts and friendships will be made. The first contest will put each participant in touch with others in many parts of this continent. The second will promote international friendships. Courtesy (or QSL) cards will follow in quantity if the experience of our forwarding bureau is any indication. Several months were required to clear the hook of the thousands of cards that were received to be sent through Headquarters after our last test."

Though they did not yet recognize its significance, solar cycle 16 was now more than half way through its declining phase. The two contests would run under less than ideal conditions. Whatever hams would learn about the nature of the new higher frequency bands would only hint at what would eventually be possible.

In the first event, running from 18 through 31 January 1930 (GMT), stations in the US and Canada could work each other and exchange test messages in standard ARRL format. Named the All-Section Sweepstakes Contest, it was the progenitor of the November Sweepstakes that runs today.

Each station could be worked only once regardless of band and each test message had to be different and contain at least ten words. "Rubber stamp" or trivial messages would not be credited. "This will call for individual originality in making up messages to be sent to each station worked," reiterated Handy (certainly an understatement!) to ensure there was no misunderstanding. The two messages for a specific station (to and from, the origin of the Sweepstakes' two-point contacts) did not need to be handled during the same contact. In 1930, loose coupling evidently applied to QSOs, too, not just transmitter-antenna connections.

As you might expect, requiring two original messages in each QSO prompted lots of questions about what would not be considered "rubber stamp" or trivial. Handy replied to a published question from VE3ZZ with some suggestions:

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History of Ham Radio...

“... questions or facts pertaining to the apparatus in stations, localities, opinions regarding conditions, DX, traffic or radiophone operation, comments on the characteristics of different amateur frequencies, off-frequency operation, regulations, the interference question, high quality signals, beginners, broadcast or ship operating, organization work, Army or Navy Net operation, station descriptions, QST articles, message procedure, laws, etc. would make excellent, texts for messages to be originated in the contest, not to mention the variety of non-radio subjects that could be called upon when operators in remote districts may find themselves short of regular traffic.”

Clearly he had no problem with this requirement, oblivious to the scaling-up problem that could present itself in years to come as QSO totals increased.

A final score was calculated by awarding one point for each message sent or received multiplied by the number of sections worked (a maximum of 68). “This will make our contest more interesting and general in its character,” wrote Handy. But since a valid contact must contain both a sent and received message, half-done QSOs would not count at all.

Pre-arranged skeds were permitted but, it was thought, would not be of much advantage. “Hit-or-miss work over the air will be necessary in any case to run up a score as fast as QSO’s can be made and messages put through in both directions.” But stations heard operating outside the bands would be disqualified as in the previous contest.

Advance registration was not required this time, probably to encourage more participation. Copies of each message sent and received for the contest had to be submitted as part of a valid entry, and would serve as proof of a valid contact. A log needed to be submitted along with the messages showing a list of stations and sections contacted (not necessarily in chronological order as required today). Entries had to be received at headquarters by 20 February 1930, three weeks after the end of the contest. Certificates would be awarded to the high scorer in each ARRL section. As before, ARRL headquarters stations and staff would not be eligible for awards but would participate.

The second event, involving the entire world, would run from 15 through 28 February 1930 (GMT) and was called the Third International Relay Competition, a progenitor of today’s ARRL DX Contest. American and Canadian stations, including stations located in US territories, would work everyone else, and needed to register in advance for participation. Stations around the world could simply participate at will but could work only the US and Canada.

As in the previous contest, US and Canadian stations had to pre-register two weeks prior to the event and would send test messages, provided to them just before the contest started, to foreign stations who then would send reply messages to W/VE stations other than the ones from which they were received. Reply messages had to contain the assigned serial number from the original test message and a ten-word text that was different each time, just as in the Sweepstakes. Furthermore, a reply had to actually answer a question posed in the original message! For W/VE stations, sending a test message counted one point, receiving a reply counted two, and for the rest of the world, receiving a test message counted one, sending a reply counted two.

A winner would be named from each ARRL section and each area of the world having a different call sign prefix. Going by section, rather than having prizes for the top 25 in the entire US and Canada, was intended to satisfy criticism from West Coast stations that the 1928 contest had favored East Coast stations because of their distance advantage for working the great number of European participants.

But since there was still interest in a national (US or Canada) high-score list, they also devised a handicapping arrangement for weighting contacts with various continents according to whether a participant was located more or less west or east of the Mississippi River (i.e., Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Arkansas, Louisiana and Ontario were the western-most states and provinces designated to be in the eastern area.

The final score was then calculated as the number of message points for a QSO, each multiplied by its appropriate weighting factor, totaled up and then multiplied by the number of continents worked. A foreign station’s score was their message total multiplied by the number of US and Canadian call districts worked (at that time, a maximum of only 9 and 5, respectively).

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History of Ham Radio...

Upon defeating the British Navy at Dover in 1652, the appropriately named Dutch commander, Admiral Tromp, “sailed up the English Channel with a broom hoisted at the masthead of his flagship, denoting that he had successfully ‘swept the seas,’” wrote F. E. Handy.

Therefore, the three highest-scoring entries in the All-Section Sweepstakes, having similarly “swept the air” would receive as a trophy a sweep-broom decked out in black and gold League colors and constructed using radio materials, including a “symbolic vacuum tube” attached to the handle. At three feet long for the top prize, with second and third place brooms each incrementally shorter, the trophies would have the winners’ call signs “inscribed in black on a background of varnished cambric, better known to amateur constructors as empire cloth” Certificates of Performance, awarded to the high scorer in each ARRL section, also displayed a small picture of the three brooms as emblems of the event.

In the International Relay Competition, Certificates of Merit would be awarded to high scorers in each ARRL section and as many “foreign localities” as had entered.

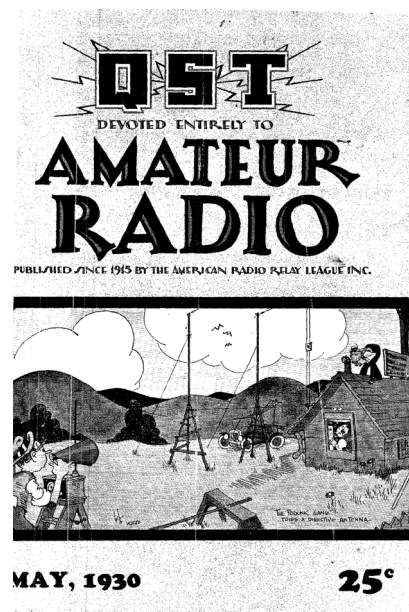
The cover of the May 1930 issue of QST was illustrated with a cartoon drawn by Philip “Gil” Gildersleeve, W1CJD—his first cover drawing. Gil had been drawing cartoons for QST since June 1927, beginning a long and popular run of hundreds. Inside, the results of the All-Section Sweepstakes declared W1ADW the winner with a “clean sweep,” which simply meant he had the highest score—different from what it means today, working all ARRL sections. Operating on the 80-, 40- and 20-meter bands, he had exchanged messages with 153 stations in forty-three of the sixty-eight ARRL sections for a score of 13,158. Rounding out the top three broom winners were W9DEX and W2BAI, who took third place despite beginning his operation one week late!

Ninety stations from forty-eight sections reported their results. Only one, W9GHI, used phone during the contest, mostly in the 80-meter segment.

Many who entered expressed their enjoyment and asked for more such events to be scheduled. The most common, nearly universal problem they reported was having to explain the contest to more than half the stations they worked. Handy attributed this to an abundance of amateurs who “do not properly read QST.”

Though it ran one month later than the Sweepstakes, the results of the International Relay Competition took three more months to be reported. In the US and Canada, W6BAX finished on top with 3,210 points, with W2CXL in second with 2,945, working 83 stations. W6BAX’s QSO total was not reported but it was lower than W2DXL’s despite having a higher score, likely due to the weighting scheme. CM8UF topped the DX entries with 3,564 points.

There would be many more changes to both events in the coming years. The declining solar cycle notwithstanding, contests clearly made the bands come alive and were both fun and useful.



Here's an Easy New Year's Resolution!

Don't let your “To Do” list nag you. Get it done and over with!
So, take a moment now to support EGARA with your 2024 dues.

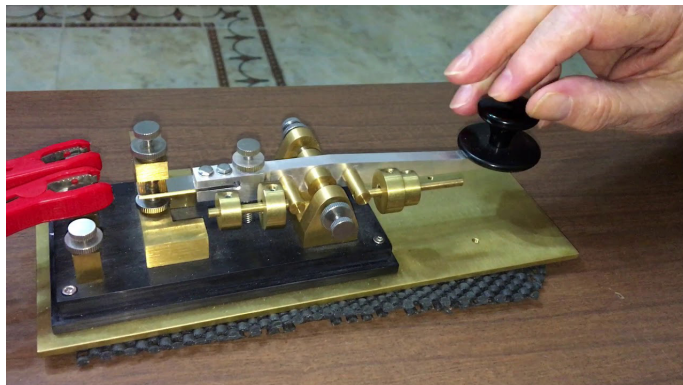
Plus, it's quick, easy and secure when you submit your dues on-line.

Just visit www.EGARA.club/dues

STRAIGHT KEY NIGHT TO USHER IN NEW YEAR

If you're looking for a reason to celebrate Amateur Radio's CW heritage, you'll find it on New Year's Day!

"*Straight Key Night*" is an annual event that runs for 24 hours every January 1st from 0000 UTC through 2359 UTC. But it's not really considered a contest. Participants are encouraged to get on the air and simply make enjoyable, conversational CW QSOs. The use of straight keys or bugs to send CW is preferred. There is no requirement to score points and all participants are winners.



However, you can submit a log of your CW contacts to see how you compare to others working the event. All authorized Amateur frequencies can be worked, but activity has traditionally been centered on the HF bands.

To enter your log, it must be received by ARRL no later than January 31st. Votes for "Best Fist" and "Most Interesting QSO" will be tabulated and included in the results. Send your information to straightkey@arrl.org -- or by mail to: ARRL Straight Key Night, 225 Main Street, Newington, CT 06111. If you have questions, email contests@arrl.org or call (860) 594-0232.

A Straight Key Night Story:

By Dan Henderson, N1ND

In my early days in amateur radio, I was privileged to have three top-flight Elmers. Each shared with me new interests and enthusiasm for different parts of the hobby. The first, Col. Frank, WB4JMG, was special because we shared the same birthday and he taught me most of what I learned in those early days about electronic theory. The second Elmer, Everest McDade, W4DYW, was special because our families were so close -- and as he was my principle mentor for on-the-air operations, especially CW traffic nets.

Unless your Elmer was one of your parents, you probably can't say what my third Elmer would say about our relationship. Dr. Mac, WA4VNV (later N4IX), would say he knew me my entire life. Not only was he a dedicated amateur operator, he was my mother's OBGYN (the man who literally delivered me to the world) -- then in later years he helped me find the world of amateur radio.

I had been attending club meetings with the old Asheville Radio Club for months before I was first licensed. Being the precocious teenager that I was, I jumped in with both feet. In mid-1971 I agreed to take over as editor of the Asheville RC's monthly newsletter, known as "Smoketest from Dr. Mac." He agreed to help me as a regular contributor, but slyly with one caveat -- he would only provide news stories for me for the newsletter if I would copy them over the air using CW, since I was only a Novice and had no phone privileges during those years.

I accepted his offer, and began two years of almost daily QSOs on 3725 KHz because that was one of the few crystals I had for my Heathkit HW-16 (a rig that Col. Frank had been commissioned by my parents to build for my Christmas present in 1970). It was a unique experience, yet one which served to continue building what became my passion for Morse code. In later years I would follow in Dr. Mac's footsteps once again when I became the ARES EC and RACES Radio Office for my county.

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Start Off the New Year Right!
Get The Gear You Need From a EGARA Hamfest Sponsor!



A Straight Key Night Story... continued

Between the efforts of my three Elmers, my CW speed quickly increased from the nervous 5 WPM necessary to earn my license to being able to conduct a coherent rag chew in the 25-30 WPM range. And the mantra of all three was simple: If you want to be competent in CW, you have to use it.

So each year from 0000 UTC to 2359 UTC PM on January 1st, I now have the chance to pay a small bit of homage back to my Elmers -- via the opportunity to participate in the annual ARRL Straight Key Night (SKN). This 24-hour event is not a contest; but rather it is a day dedicated to celebrating our CW heritage. Participants are encouraged to get on-the-air and simply make enjoyable, conversational, QSOs. There are no points scored, and all who participate are winners.

In the decade since I wrote my first SKN announcement for QST, I have seen a marvelous metamorphosis occur. The number of entries has grown almost every year, even with the elimination of CW as a licensing requirement in the US. Participants have also used this popular annual event for more than just demonstrating their prowess while pounding a brass key. Numerous participants use SKN to test and show off their vintage equipment. Some will plug in their old CW bugs and join in the event. The common bond for all of them is to have fun in a more relaxed CW-enriched setting. You will even find CW enthusiasts do get on just to enjoy the rag chewing.

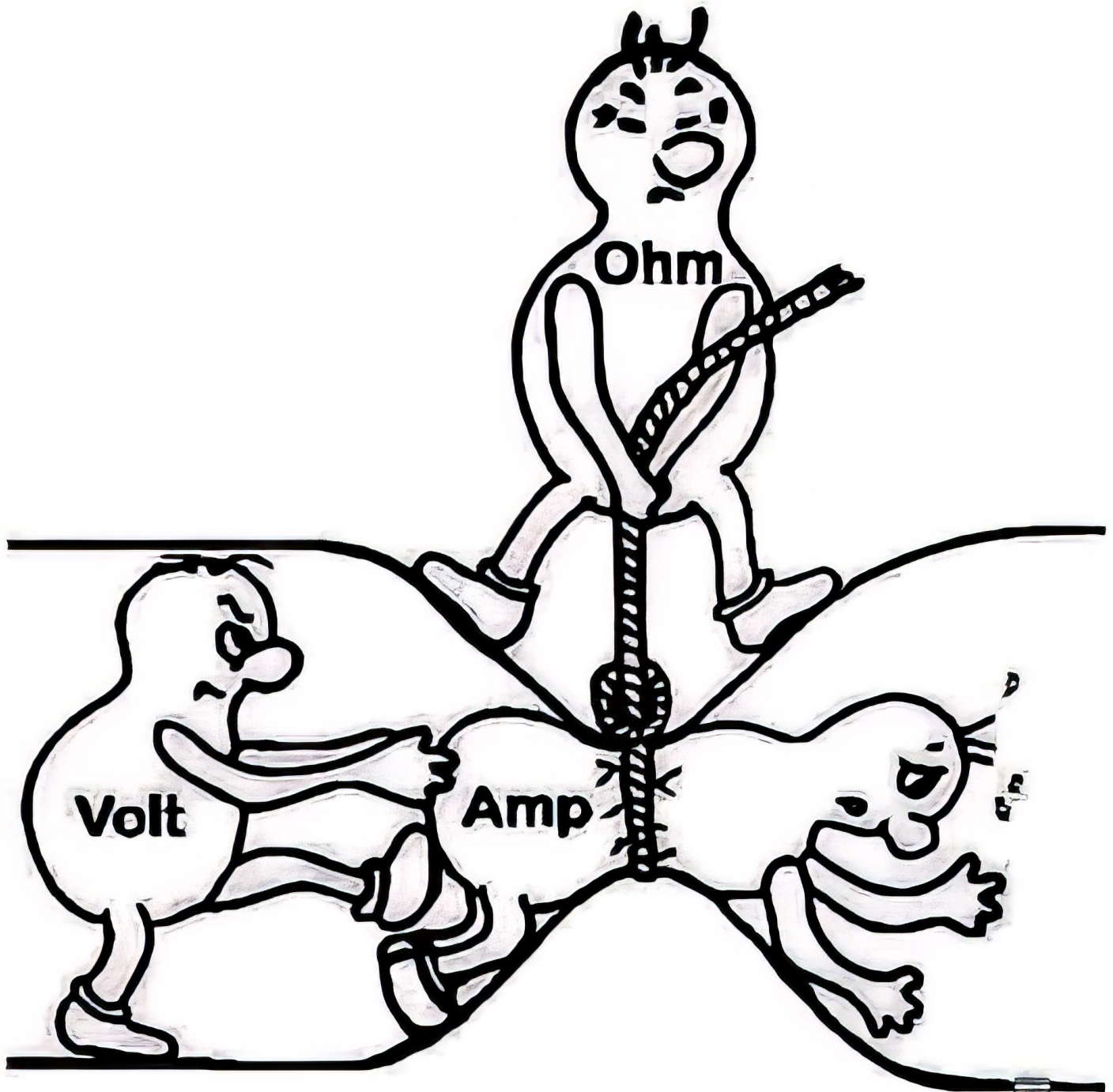
That's the purpose of this popular operating event after all, so don't get hung up about the equipment you use.

When participating in SKN, instead of sending RST, before sending the signal report also send the letters "SKN" to indicate your participation, and to clue in passers-by who may be listening (alerting them that SKN is still going strong). After SKN, send the Contest Branch a list of the stations you contacted, plus your vote for the best fist you heard (it doesn't have to be one you worked). Also, include your vote for the most interesting QSO you had or that you monitored.

Don't forget to post your comments and any interesting photographs from your SKN adventure to the ARRL Contest Online Soapbox. Entries should be emailed to the Contest Branch at StraightKey@arrl.org or may be sent via regular mail to ARRL - SKN, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111. The Soapbox becomes an on-line album of stores and photographs to share with others.



Electronics Made Easy...



A Word of Thanks

The following email was received through the EGARA club's website:

"I'm getting in touch to thank the members of the East Greenbush Amateur Radio Association for putting together your collection of radio electronics resources!"

My name is Mrs. Coleman and I'm the program director for our technology club here in New Hampshire.

Up until February our center will be hosting a special Makerspace workshop. We did this last winter and it was a huge hit within our community. Allowing kids to tinker teaches them what's working and what's not, and they have to try different tactics to solve problems. Kids learn to experiment, accept failures, make improvements, and develop the resiliency they need to try and try again.

We're working on some simple electronics/circuitry projects right now, involving soldering techniques. You listed some wonderful websites to share with the group -- we really appreciate it!

-- Mrs. Grace Coleman



Ham Humor



2023: A Good Year for Amateur Radio Volunteers

A Summary by the American Radio Relay League

It was a remarkable year for amateur radio in 2023. There were many noteworthy opportunities for hams to use their license privileges for the greater good.

An annular solar eclipse saw radio amateurs engaging in projects of scientific research about our ionosphere, devastating wildfires gutted entire cities and saw Amateur Radio Emergency Service member-volunteers rise to activate, hurricanes threatened life and property, bicycle races spread across the desert necessitating robust communications provided by hams, and high school students led and executed contacts with the International Space Station. Many amateur radio operators stood to serve in ways that made headlines, and all of them were volunteers.

Still, tens of thousands of others did work that never made the pages of QST, didn't become the lead story on the local news, and didn't become fodder for on-line forums. Perhaps it was the ARRL VE who administered tests, welcoming the next generation of hams into the hobby, or the National Traffic System net manager who handled traffic from hams checking in. It could've even been the mentor who took the time to show a learner how to solder. These are the unsung heroes of the Amateur Radio Service -- these are the volunteers.



EGARA Volunteer Examiners conducting an FCC licensing exam in October 2023

ARRL has nearly 60,000 volunteers within its membership, without whom it could not function. They are the lifeblood of this hobby. ARRL designated 2023 as the Year of the Volunteers to recognize their efforts, encourage new prospective volunteers to follow their lead, and call existing volunteers to reach one rung higher on the ladder of service. The Volunteers On the Air (VOTA) operating event has been popular among hams, with some operators making nearly 30,000 QSOs throughout the yearlong activation.

A young man from north Texas emerged as a leader. Sam Lovett, KI5RSV, is just a teenager but has been awarded the 2023 Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Award for his success with developing interest in amateur radio among his peers. He leads a youth net and has been instrumental in building a strong ham culture in his Trail Life USA troop. A video interview with Sam will be featured in the February 2023 digital edition of QST.

Lyn Alfman, N8IMW, of Norwich, Ohio, was honored for her volunteer work in the public information space. She received the 2023 ARRL Philip J. McGan Memorial Silver Antenna Award. The proclamation issued by the ARRL Board of Directors says that Lyn "exemplifies the skills and depth of understanding [needed] to convey to media outlets the fascinating world of amateur radio."

ARRL's George Hart Distinguished Service Award honors the work member-volunteers put in to use their license privileges to serve others. Jo Ann Keith, KA5AZK, of Diana, Texas, is the 2023 recipient.

Jo Ann is the net manager of the 7290 Traffic Net, a public service traffic net that has been in operation since 1953. She has a long history of volunteer work, dating back to her youth when she served as a candy striper. Like tens of thousands of others, Jo Ann uses amateur radio in the spirit of service.

These are just a few stories that can be told from the Year of the Volunteers. There are so many other stories out there, and we encourage you to tell your own. While the Volunteers on the Air event closed on December 31, 2023 at 2359 UTC, the spirit of this year will continue as long as there are hams standing to serve others through amateur radio.



LARGE ESTATE SALE

I have many items to sell. All items have been tested and cleaned and are working to expectations. All listed prices are derived from previous sales of similar on QTH, QRZ, and Ebay. I am willing to negotiate. If you are interested in something, please let me know. Contact Pete, NY2V @ 315-427-1364

ICOM 756 HF Transceiver Recently tuned. Includes Icom SM-2 desk mic, power supply. **\$ 50**

ICOM IC 275h 2 meter all mode XCVR. Excellent Condition. **\$ 300**

ICOM IC 475h 440 all mode XCVR. Excellent Condition **\$ 300**

Icom PS-30 Linear Power Supply **\$150**

ICOM SM-8 Desk Mic 2 Available. **\$ 125 each**

ASTRON LINEAR POWER SUPPLIES. RS-20M. **\$75.** VS-20M. **\$75**

ASTRON SS-30M Power Supply. **\$ 125**

MMDVM Hot Spot Battery operated, weatherproof case (Great for POTA!) **\$ 150**

HYGAIN TAILTWISTER ROTOR WITH CONTROL BOX & 40 FT CABLE. Heavy duty version. **\$400**

BIRD MODEL 43 METER WITH 6 SLUGS. Various frequencies and power levels. One slug not marked. **\$250**

HEIL PROSET HEADSET For use with Kenwood (Adapter included). **\$ 125**



CALENDAR

January 1, 2024 - ARRL annual dues increase takes effect

January 10, 2024 - Regular monthly club meeting, East Greenbush Masonic Lodge

February 10-11 - EGARA Technician class for members of CDJW Club. EGARA members invited to help instruct. See further information on page 4.



GEAR FOR SALE

- **Champion Generator** - 4,000 starting watts, 3,500 running watts. 120/240 volt with Automatic Voltage Regulator. Includes standard 120 volt/20 amp outlet, RV 120/30 amp outlet, and 120/240 volt/30 amp L14-30 twist lock outlet. Voltage meter and dual circuit breakers, with recoil start. Great for emergency backup or job site. Like new with approximately five hours total run time. Includes optional wheel kit and handle. \$300

Contact Bryan, W2RBJ at W2RBJ@outlook.com

-
- **Heil RS 1 12' riser** brand new \$ 30.00

Contact Walt, N2WJR at N2WJR07@gmail.com

**Sell your unused gear with a
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**Send details to:
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Pro Tip: Tracking Alignments

Add a small piece of tape at the top of your tuning stick as a flag!

Proper alignments often require you to count the number of turns from the top/bottom of the coil during alignment.

You can also use this trick when making adjustments to remember where the flag was originally and how many turns you made... just in case you need to revert back to the original tuning setting.



The East Greenbush Amateur Radio Association

Organized in 1998, by Bert Bruins, N2FPJ, (SK) and Chris Linck, N2NEH, the East Greenbush Amateur Radio Association, an ARRL affiliate, is committed to providing emergency services, educational programs, and operating resources to amateur radio operators and residents of the Capital Region of New York State. The club station is W2EGB. The club also has several VHF and UHF repeaters open to club members and the public.